

**THE VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK  
POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
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MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543**

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President*

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Vice-President*

**PRESS RELEASE – NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

**VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK PBA RESPONDS TO SETTLEMENT OF  
LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST VILLAGE BY POLICE OFFICER GOMEREZ**

The men and women of the Village of Mamaroneck PBA are disheartened by the recent news that the Village elected to settle Police Officer Jose Gomez's discrimination lawsuit. Unfortunately, by settling the claim without taking the testimony of a single witness, or giving the Department the opportunity to explain its decision-making process, the Village has left the public with the mistaken impression that some form of racial animus exists within the ranks of the Department.

Neither our members, nor the Mamaroneck Village Police Department as a whole, have engaged in racial discrimination, as alleged by Officer Gomez. We are frustrated with the Village's decision-making in this matter, particularly because the decision to settle was made by attorneys representing the interests of the Village's insurance company, not the interests of the proud and professional police officers whose reputations have been tarnished by this ill-advised settlement.

We have read the media reports which suggest that the settlement addressed acts of discrimination in the Department, which we strongly and steadfastly dispute. Most importantly, the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reviewed Officer Gomez's claims of racial discrimination within the Department and determined that *no evidence* of racial discrimination existed to justify a lawsuit: as a result, EEOC dismissed the claims of racial bias within the department and declined to authorize Officer Gomez's legal action. The Village settled anyway.

The Village's reasoning that it is not responsible for the financial cost of the award does not justify its willingness to agree to a settlement that fosters the false idea

that racial animus is tolerated within our Department. Even if the Village's insurance company made the decision to settle the suit for financial reasons, the Village should have refused settlement and fought for its police officers: instead, the Village has characteristically remained silent while its police department gets unfairly maligned.

We stand by the integrity of our police officers and our Department; we are and remain proud to serve the citizens of the Village of Mamaroneck; and we stand resolute that we do not and will not tolerate discrimination of any kind within our ranks, or in the course of our service to the Village.

*Please direct all inquiries to the Quinn Law Firm, PLLC, attorneys for the Village of Mamaroneck Police Benevolent Association, at (914) 997-0555.*